NEWSBRIEFS

ACCRA, GHANA: As we reported in our summer newsletter, Sister Grace Asare-Djan has moved to a village outside Accra called Teshie/ Nungua Estate. We let Grace's very moving letter tell the story:

"Walking along the lanes in our village with poor environmental sanitation and drinking water, invokes the feeling in me, as a health professional, of the urgent need to do something in the form of health help to be rendered to the inhabitants. Everyone has a health complaint when we talk to the women in the market place and in the Church... I have spoken to the Director of Health services in Ghana and in our conversation he seemed quite happy about the project (for a clinic) . . . Animal sacrifice is very common among our people. The native doctor or juju man is always consulted and it is here that animal sacrifice comes in. You have no idea how much I wish to speak to people in groups about the evils of animal sacrifice. I know that when the clinic is well established group gatherings will be very easy. My little house is now a consultation center. Folks visit me frequently for health problems.

"A fish seller's son had a fall and his right arm was swollen for a whole month. Someone told his mother that Sister Grace is a nurse, so the boy

NEWSLETTER

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LETTERS

Dear Rev. Johns,

Just a short note to let you know how much we appreciate everything that you do for the residents here. Your visits really make a difference in their lives.

It is truly an honor to work with someone as unselfish as you are. So many people are eager to work with the elderly at first, and then find they are unable to handle the situation. We feel doubly fortunate in having a volunteer who is as faithful and caring as you are.

Once again, please accept our deepest appreciation.

Jacqueline S. Dye
Vegas Valley
Convalesent Hospital

Lilac and the Clown Ministry,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

You have helped us meet some of the many needs of our residents, and because of you their stay here has been enriched.

We want you to know that your good will and personal interest is sincerely appreciated.

Ruth Boleng
Henderson
Convalescent Hospital

"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart . . ." Luke 6:45

NEWSBRIEFS

LOCAL

CLOWN MINISTRY: Special thanks to new volunteer Richard Klein (Pee Wee the clown), who has been helping us all summer. Richard is a high school student and has experience working with the retarded in Florida. Also to James and Rhonda Patrick, who are "Donald" and "Bubbles" respectively. Rhonda is a Sunday school teacher, and brings a wealth of knowledge about pre-school activities, which is very useful both with the toddlers and the retarded folks we visit. "Donald" - you guessed it - sounds like Donald Duck! Our thanks also to Lucille Russell, who has undertaken to sew stuffed toys for the children we visit. They are lovingly and painstakingly completed - not surprising for a lady who has been sewing for 62 years!

Lilac, left, and Bubbles use story puppets and a story board to enthrall clients at Nevada Association for the Handicapped.

At a recent visit to Nevada Association for the Handicapped (NAH), Bubbles brought in story puppets and a felt story board, and recounted "The Three Little Pigs," and "The Three Little Kittens" for the clients. They were spellbound, and some were able to answer questions about the stories and participate in their telling. Bubbles also helped to present some birthday toys to some of the NAH clients, including some smurfs made by clients of the Salvation Army Adult Daycare Center in Henderson. The joy on the faces of the NAH clients was unmistakable!

This young man leaves no doubt about how he feels about the smurf made for the children by clients of Salvation Army Daycare Center in Henderson.

Lilac (Rev. Grace Michaels) was touched recently by a young resident of Child Haven. When the clowns appeared this little girl recognized them and ran to Lilac to be picked up and hugged - the girl considered the clown to be her old friend. When the clowns were finished and were leaving this same child asked Lilac if they would come back tomorrow.

Clown volunteers, Charles Nebeker (Fuzzy) and Paul Tarr (Super Klutz), bring a party to this lady, a client at Salvation Army Adult Daycare Center in Henderson.

At University Medical Center, Cookie (Rev. Raphael de Peyer) and Lilac have been working since June with a boy, Eric, who was hit by a car, and has been in a coma since that time. With many who are comatose, hearing is the first sense to return, and can be present quite undetected because even while hearing everything going on around them they are unable to move or respond in any way. Working on this basis, Cookie and Lilac have been talking to Eric and singing to him. During their last visit before we went to press the clowns were rewarded by Eric's efforts to open his eyes (as yet unfocused) and look at Cookie. The following day the respirator was removed and Eric is breathing freely on his own. There is strong hope for his complete recovery: please keep him in your prayers.

Coconut (Rev. Maria Perchuk) made a flying visit at parental request to UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles to see an anorexic girl. The girl responded extremely well to Garfield (Coconut's puppet) and the balloons and stories Coconut took with her. The girl had been miserable for many days, but cheered up enormously upon Coconut's arrival.

Finally, we have been very blessed by the arrival here of an extremely experienced clown, Rev. Nathania Gartman (Daffydil), who has transferred from our ministry in Denver, replacing Brother Damon Lese, who is working at our animal sanctuary in Kanab, Utah. She will be playing an active part in the Clown Ministry, enabling us to extend our reach yet further.

While this picture is a little old and was sent to us by a spectator, we thought you'd enjoy seeing Lilac (peeking out in the center of the group) and young volunteers at the Martin Luther King Day Parade in downtown Las Vegas.

PET THERAPY: In an incident typical of this program, Rev. Abigail Johns, accompanied by canine assistants Teddy and Pippin, was visiting a local nursing home, when they came upon a lady out of her room and wandering in her wheelchair, crying and mumbling. The dogs spotted her first and pulled Rev. Johns over to her, who recognized her as one of the patients with Alzheimer's disease. Tragically, the disease has progressed to the point where the lady no longer remembers her own name, but she recognized the dogs and was greatly comforted and stopped crying.

ANIMAL ACTION: Once again we want to thank the many Las Vegans who have given dogs and cats new and loving homes. If you can help by either giving an animal a home or encouraging others to do so, please call us at 367-6808. You will be rewarded with a faithful lifetime friend.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

A member of Georgia Earth Alliance protests outside Yerkes as a gorilla in a cage.

ATLANTA: Bob and Margery Kellar continue their dedicated work in Animal Action. As members of Georgia Earth Alliance, they participated in a recent action at Yerkes (part of Emory University), where vivisection is conducted on primates. They are also helping to organize the first Georgia animal rights seminar on November 7, and in meantime they are putting together a series of six programs for the local PBS TV station on animal rights. This is the principle project of old friend, Jane Culpepper. God bless you all.

CHICAGO: As many of you know Rev. Raphael de Peyer is visiting the Windy City, October 5-10. Main events will be a prayer group on Thursday, October 8, and a communication workshop on Saturday, October 10. For more information, please call Christian Mendenhall at (312) 784-0679, evenings or weekends. Rev. de Peyer may be reached in Chicago from October 5 at 743-8693.

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